

SEKISUI S-LEC AMERICA

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Corporate support and a strong culture of environmental stewardship is what makes this facility a KY EXCEL success.



Employees participating in Sekisui's annual Environmental Week projects in June.

Environmental Stewardship Goals

Sitting on 26 acres off Rolling Hills Lane in Winchester, Kentucky is a small facility making big moves towards environmental sustainability and responsible stewardship practices. Sekisui S-Lec America is part of the parent company Sekisui Chemical Group located in Osaka, Japan. Sekisui S-Lec America produces clear interlayer film used for laminated glass and mostly found in automobile windshields. Among its main functions, other than security and safety, are solar heat reduction, sound reduction, and the capability to produce Head Up Displays. Each facility in the Sekisui family shares the goal to have the least amount of impact on the environment as possible while also benefiting the communities in which they operate.

According to their 2016 Corporate Social Responsibility Report, Sekisui has an "Environment Sustainability Vision to expand and create markets for environment contributing products, reduce environmental impact and conserve the natural environment." Having this dedicated corporate vision allows for the great success in what Sekisui S-Lec America has been able to do at their facility. Sekisui S-Lec America voluntarily participates in the KY EXCEL program at the "Leader" level.

Participation at this stage requires yearly environmental projects, environmental planning and assessments, and annual project reports. Sekisui S-Lec America has only been a KY EXCEL member for one year, but just recently earned the well-deserved title of Master KY EXCEL member, a major accomplishment in so little time.

Little Things Add Up

Sekisui S-Lec America implemented small projects that have made big results for the facility. They changed the default settings on all of the printers and copy machines to print two sided copies instead of one, reducing paper waste and ink costs. Associates working at Sekisui S-Lec do not have trash cans at their desks. In fact, they only have three general use trash cans in the whole facility! The hope is that associates will consciously think about what they are throwing away and creatively think about if there is another way they can use that item.

This has spurred associates to re-use the backsides of paper, use dry erase boards instead of notepads and use reusable items like plastic bags and dishes instead of disposable options. Sekisui's efforts are not just practiced here in the United States, but they also switch off the lights

Key to Success

Environmental stewardship is cultivated when modeled and encouraged through management support.

in all Sekisui facilities worldwide for an hour each day during lunchtime to save energy.

Small but Mighty

Sekisui S-Lec America has 92 associates who really enjoy the projects happening at the facility. Sekisui Chemical Group encourages their facilities to have an environmental week every year where associates do different activities to improve greenspace and reduce impact on the environment. Sekisui S-Lec America associates participated in composting, waste reduction, making biodegradable bird feeders, and landscaping around the “Sekisui Woodlands” for this year’s projects.

The woodlands make up the other part of the acreage outside of the facility and feature fields planted with native Kentucky species, an 1100 meter walking trail and a covered pavilion for associates that like to go outside for lunch.

Environmental week at Sekisui S-Lec America has 100% employee participation, “it’s a family event that everybody loves,” says Randy Hardwick, Assistant Director of Corporate Social Responsibility. Sekisui S-Lec America also helps sponsor a Kentucky River Sweep each year to help clean up the river in Clark County. “We usually have around 37 associates and family members show up to help with food and the clean up projects,” Randy states, “and that is on a weekend!”

Sekisui S-Lec America also hosts an “Adopt-A-Roadway” event on Rolling Hills Lane by the facility. The last event produced over 30 bags of waste collected by 70 associates over 81 man hours.

Keeping it Zero

Sekisui S-Lec America became Zero Waste to Landfill certified in 2013 and have worked to reduce impact in other ways since then. There are labeled bins around the factory, in the breakroom and outside near the loading docks to collect anything that

can be reused or recycled. They collect glass, plastic, metal and the usual aluminum cans, paper, cardboard and food scraps for compost. The bins are labeled with visual signage making it clear what goes inside and easy for associates to sort.

When they deliver product, they keep part of the packaging and take it back to the facility to be recycled or reused. Sekisui S-Lec America even pays to have waste that cannot be recycled sent to a waste to energy facility in Indianapolis. The costs of this practice spurred another project that saved the facility over \$10,000 in shipping.

They purchased a waste compactor with the goal to increase the capacity of their 36 cubic yard roll off container to 42 cubic yards and also reduce the number of shipments to Indiana from 10 to 4 times in a year. When all was said and done, the annual shipment rate was reduced to one time per year saving 3,708 miles of transportation, 570 gallons of diesel fuel and reducing transportation related CO₂ emissions by 5,791 kgs.

Thinking Ahead

Sekisui S-Lec America plans to continue to “reduce, reuse and recycle.” Such efforts are what KY EXCEL is all about. Sekisui S-Lec America is a KY EXCEL success!



Sekisui employees making biodegradable bird feeders (left) and collecting trash in the Adopt A Roadway event (middle). Much success is due to making waste control easy with clear signage and separate containers (right).